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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/371,708 08/09/99 LUFFEL

R 10980297-1

EXAMINER

TM02/0508

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ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2652

DATE MAILED:

05/08/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/371,708

Applicant(s)

LUFFEL ET AL.

Examiner

David D. Davis

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- 15) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 16) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 17) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4.

- 18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 20) ☐ Other: _____

Information Disclosure Statement

1. Receipt is acknowledged of the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) received August 9, 1999.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. Claims 2-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, "the first and second ends" in line 3 of claim 2 lack antecedent basis. Similar indefiniteness exists in claim 14.

Double Patenting

3. Claims 1-23 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-24 of copending Application No. 09/337,802. Both sets of claims recite a translation apparatus for a translation device including a first elongate gear rack; a second elongated gear rack; a first drive pinion and a second drive pinion and a drive pinion apparatus.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection.

4. Applicant is advised that should claims 2 and 14 be found allowable, claims 2 and 14 will be objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate thereof. When two claims in an application are duplicates or else are so close in content that they both cover the same thing,

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despite a slight difference in wording, it is proper after allowing one claim to object to the other as being a substantial duplicate of the allowed claim. See MPEP § 706.03(k).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

6. Claims 1-7, 10-19 and 22-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Tadokoro et al (US 6,166,877). Figure 19 of Tadokoro et al shows a modular data storage system for handling and storing data cartridges. Figure 19 also shows at least two laterally adjacent modular units, with each unit including a plurality of cartridge access devices 2. Figure 20 shows first and second elongated gear racks 32 aligned along a displacement path and positioned space-apart. Figure 19 of Tadokoro et al shows devices 2, which include racks 32, substantially in alignment with one another.

Figures 20 and 21 show first and second drive pinions 41 mounted to cartridge access device 2 engaging respective racks 32. Pinion drive motor 34, as shown in figure 20 of Tadokoro et al, is operatively associated with pinions 41. Motor 34 rotates pinions 41 to move cartridge access device 2 among racks 32.

Figures 21 and 22 of Tadokoro et al show rack 32 including first and second elongated guide members 8 that extend along the displacement path substantially between first and second

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ends of racks 32. Bearings 33 mounted to cartridge device 2 engage first and second guide member 8. Also shown in figures 21 and 22 is first and second guide members 8 including first and second opposed bearing surfaces with bearings 33, which are mounted to device 2, slidably engaging the opposed bearing surfaces of member 8. Figures 20 of Tadokoro et al further shows motor 34 with worm and worm gear 39 attached to the shaft of motor 34 such that gear 39 is operatively connected to pinions 41.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. US 5,015,139 to Baur shows a translation device with racks and pinions.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David D. Davis whose telephone number is (703) 308-1503. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon., Tues., Thurs. and Fri. between 7:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hoa T. Nguyen can be reached on (703) 305-9687. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-9051 for regular communications and (703) 308-9052 for After Final communications.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.



David D. Davis
Primary Examiner
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ddd
May 7, 2001